



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

5009

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Testimony
Representative Russell A. Morin
28th District, Wethersfield

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Chairman Crisco, Chairman Fontana and Honorable members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, I am here to testify in strong support of H.B. 5009 An Act Concerning Wellness Programs and Expansion of Health Insurance Coverage.

All of the items mentioned in this bill are true hardships for people and I feel the coverage included within is very beneficial. This bill expands or requires health insurance coverage for ostomy-related supplies, prosthetic devices, hearing aids for children, wigs for patients who suffer hair loss due to certain medical conditions, and bone marrow testing as well. It also requires the prohibiting of imposition of a coinsurance, copayment, deductible and/or other out-of-pocket expense for any additional colonoscopy ordered in a policy year by a physician for an insured. It also promotes health behavior wellness, maintenance or improvement program participation by requiring insurers to offer such programs, and requires an incentive or reward for such participation.

I am strongly in support of the portion of this bill that has to do with Bone Marrow testing. I have a friend who needed help searching for a bone marrow donor. Through my church we held a fundraiser in support of her search for a donor. Through that experience, I saw first hand the anguish and despair that someone goes through when they need help because there are not enough available donors. This legislation would help many people looking for bone marrow matches as it requires the person sign up for the National Bone Marrow registry, in order for the test to be covered, which would mean so many more potential matches for people who are in desperate need of a transplant.

I understand that we are reluctant to impose mandates on the health insurance industry, but this piece of legislation would help so many of our state's residents live better lives at such a minimal cost. Our support of this bill will have a most positive affect on not only the patients who need these things, but also on their families that often times have to make difficult decisions and painful choices as to how best to provide for their loved ones. I thank you for your consideration of this bill.